

The following Notice to Mariners is published for general information

Australia – Victoria

No. 081 (T) – 2021

PORT OF MELBOURNE - YARRA RIVER

PORT PHILLIP FERRIES – EXEMPTION FOR INCREASED SPEEDS IN YARRA RIVER

**Date:** 30 March 2021

**Refers:** NtM 354 (T) – 2020 and is hereby cancelled

**Details:** Port users are advised that the Masters of Port Phillip Ferries (PPF) *Bellarine Express* and *Geelong Flyer* are exempt from the requirements of Clause 2.7.1 of Schedule 2 of the Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules for Victorian waters made under section 184 of the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic) until **12<sup>th</sup> March 2022**.

*Bellarine Express* and *Geelong Flyer* exemption are subject to the conditions in the attached *Exemption Notice 3.15 of the Marine Safety Act 2010*(Vic).

The ferries operate between Geelong, Portarlington, and Victoria Harbour with scheduled runs between 0500 and 2100 hrs, seven days a week.

For more information on schedules visit the PPF website.  
(<http://www.portphillipferries.com.au/>).

For more information, contact Melbourne VTS on 9644 9700 or on VHF Channel 12.

**Charts &  
Publications**

**affected:** AUS 154

**Further notice:** Further Notice will be issued



**Kell Dillon**  
**Harbour Master**

**Exemption Notice 3.15**  
**DOC/21/45144**

**Marine Safety Act 2010 (Vic)**  
**Section 260(1) Exemption Notice**  
**Port Phillip Ferries**

I, **Gareth Johnson**, Acting Director, Maritime Safety (as delegate of the Director, Transport Safety) in exercise of the powers vested in me under section 260(1) of the *Marine Safety Act 2010 (Vic)*, hereby grant the following exemption to Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express on the terms set out in this instrument.

### **1. Application**

This notice of exemption applies to the Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express when operating on the waters of the Yarra River between the Southern dripline of the West Gate Bridge and the Western drip line of the Bolte Bridge.

### **2. Exemption**

Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express are exempt from the requirements of: Clause 2.7.1 of Schedule 2 of the Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules for Victorian waters made under section 184 of the *Marine Safety Act 2010 (Vic)*.

*2.7.1 Six (6) knot speed restriction for the purposes of Clause 7*

*All vessels less than 35 metres in length, on the waters of the Yarra River within the port waters of the Port of Melbourne, between the southern drip line of the Westgate Bridge and the Western drip line of the Bolte Bridge are subject to a speed limit of 6 knots.*

### **3. Conditions**

The exemption is subject to the following conditions:

1. Operational Requirements:

- (i) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 10 knots on the waters between the Southern drip line of the West Gate Bridge and beacons 39 and 40 when the Bicycle Punt is berthed at the Lorimer Street landing (eastern side of Yarra River) on inbound passages.
- (ii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 6 knots on the waters between beacons 39 and 40 and the Port Operations Control Centre on inbound passages.
- (iii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 15 knots on the waters between the Port Operations Control Centre and the Western drip line of the Bolte Bridge on inbound passages.
- (iv) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 15 knots on the waters between the Western drip line of the Bolte Bridge and the Port Operations Control Centre on outbound passages.
- (v) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 12 knots on the waters between the Port Operations Control Centre and the Southern drip line of the West Gate Bridge on outbound passages.
- (vi) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express may only exceed 6 knots when the visibility in the area of operation is equal to or greater than 200 metres.
- (vii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will slow to 6 knots or less when visibility is 200 metres or less.
- (viii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will display an amber flashing light at all times while underway.

- (ix) The Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will contact the Master of the Westgate Punt to verify the time they will be passing the area where the Westgate Punt operates when the visibility in the area of operation is equal to or less than 200 metres.
  - (x) The Master of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will contact other identified operators on the Yarra River when transiting the Yarra River.
2. A promulgated passage plan including operational times is to be made available to appropriate regulatory authorities and published on the Port Phillip Ferries website.
  3. Situational awareness tools including radar, AIS, ECDIS, electronic chart plotter with displayed AIS tracks and Thermal Cameras are to be used.
  4. The Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express shall ensure that the installed AIS transceiver is active at all times while the ferries are underway.
  5. A lookout who is suitably trained and briefed, in addition to the Master of the ferry, is present on the bridge while the ferries are operating the area applicable to this exemption including when transiting from the western drip line of the Bolte Bridge to Victoria Harbour berth.
  6. Safety Management Systems documentation for MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express are to reflect the operational requirements for operations on Victorian waters and the Yarra River transit. The Safety Management Systems to include:
    - Passage plans and operations to and from Victoria Harbour, to Portarlington and Geelong.
    - Passage plan and operations documentation to include specific details of risks and controls as identified during the duration of this exemption.
    - Speed during transit to or from Portarlington or Geelong and Victoria Harbour in relation to general operations and operations in heavy traffic and reduced visibility.
    - Qualifications of crew  
 Training requirements for masters, mates and lookouts for operations between the southern drip line of the West Gate Bridge and the western drip line of the Bolte Bridge, including but not limited to simulated emergency stopping, restricted visibility and evasive action training including situational awareness and lookout/master response, and specifically:
      1. NSCV F2 Fast Craft Training with annual verification
      2. Lookout Training and annual onboard check trip assessment for Lookout and Master to PEM standard
      3. Vessel Handling Training
      4. Advanced Navigation Training
      5. Emergency management exercise every two years
    - Docking and entering/ departure Portarlington, Geelong and Victoria Harbour.
    - Details of vessel operations.
    - Specific duties of lookout.
    - Emergency contact details.
    - Communication requirements with the Master of the Yarra Punt and other identified operators on the Yarra River.
    - Procedures for reporting Reportable Marine Incidents as per *Marine Safety Act 2010*.
    - Specific details of reporting locations for Melbourne VTS and details to be provided to VTS.

- Requirement to display amber light at all times.
7. Port Phillip Ferries will initiate an on online feedback system for feedback during the period of this exemption.
  8. The Director, Maritime Safety reserves the right to cancel or amend the exemption or conditions in his or her right, or on the advice of the Harbour Master, Victorian Ports Corporation Melbourne should hitherto unforeseen risks be identified or to impose additional conditions or vary current conditions. The exemption is subject to periodic review.

#### **4. Duration**

This notice of exemption commences on the day of signing for a period of 12 months.



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**GARETH JOHNSON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, MARITIME SAFETY  
Delegate of the Director, Transport Safety  
12/03/2021.